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## REVIEWS

### SOME RECENT FICTION

IN THE HOUSE OF HER FRIENDS. New York: Robert Grier Cooke, Incorporated. 1906.

The fact that the author's name is not given with this book is more piquing than usual, for it appears to be written from the inside distinctly, and is a remarkably clear presentation. It has to do with a college located in a small town and the various phases of such life are minutely and accurately given. The descriptions of faculty meetings, the Dean's duties and relations to the faculty, the student life, college functions, alumni movements, the many privations from small salaries, and occasional animosities and personal differences are full and intimate.

The story as a story is a sad one; but has both strength and interest in the exactness of portrayal, the unusual atmosphere, and an insistent personal note.

THE MASTER MAN. New York: John Lane Company. 1906. London: John Lane, The Bodley Head. \$1.50.

"The Master Man," which is offered anonymously, is the story of a life of single-hearted devotion led by a doctor in a small Virginian town near Charlottesville. The style is simple and sincere, and the incidents those of the time and place. The details of a doctor's busy life in a semi-rural community are clearly presented, and the self-sacrifice is impressed by the physician's death from a heart attack, when he was returning home one winter's night from a charity call.

THE AMULET. A Novel. By Charles Egbert Craddock. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1906.

After a period of silence, Miss Murfree presents to her large circle of readers in "The Amulet," a historical novel dealing with the British occupancy of Fort Prince George, near the Great Smoky Mountains, about 1763. Her usual broad, wholesome view of life animates the book; and the accounts of fort

life and trips to Indian villages, with sketches descriptive of the customs, industries, and mode of life and thought of the primitive savage, are vigorous and inspiriting. The Red Man must ever be an object of interest to the American, and Miss Murfree has as intelligent and appreciative feeling for the aborigines of her native section as for its beautiful scenery and present isolated mountain population.

*SUPERSEDED.* By May Sinclair. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1906. \$1.25.

"Superseded" is a delicate little bit of gray pastel work. It is republished in America at the desire of Miss Sinclair, who considers it her best piece of work prior to the appearance of the notable "Divine Fire." It treats of the uneventful life of a colorless little old maid teacher, but there is so much insight and sympathy in the portrayal that one feels himself rewarded both spiritually and mentally by it. The sombre tone is redeemed by the spirit of humour, and despite the slightness of so-called plot the narrative is consecutively maintained.

*IN THE SHADOW OF THE LORD.* A Romance of the Washingtons. By Mrs. Hugh Fraser. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1906. \$1.50. Second Printing.

Mrs. Fraser leaves, in this volume, her familiar ground of Japan and adds another to the ever popular historical fiction works of the period. Mary, the mother of Washington, is portrayed from girlhood to old age, and due, though softened, prominence is given that lady's well-known austerity of manner. The other characters are the notable ones of Mrs. Washington's day, and the scene shifts from country life in England to the estates of Augustine Washington in Virginia. The story is interesting and strengthens as it proceeds, albeit some of the poetry and charm of Mrs. Fraser's other work may be wanting.

*THE CRUISE OF THE VIOLETTA.* By Arthur Colton. New York: Henry Holt & Company. 1906. \$1.50.

To those who enjoy Arthur Colton — and it must be admitted that his dry, whimsical humour and quaint, unhurried style are distinctive — "The Cruise of the Violetta" will give much pleas-